

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06543 161030Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6543

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: PAPAVER BRACTEATUM

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS RELATING OMB'S PAPER CALLING FOR DECISION NOW ON QUESTION OF AUTHORIZING DOMESTIC GROWTH OF PAPAVER BRACTEATUM.

2. THIS POPPY SPECIE IS BEING INVESTIGATED AS POTENTIAL SOURCE CODEINE FOR WORLD MEDICAL NEEDS AS ONE PART OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN UNDER AUSPICES OF UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY AND PURSUANT CONSENSUS COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. IN PROPOSING AND FINANCING UN PROGRAM IN 1974 OUR GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR UN-COORDINATED RESEARCH ON ALL RELEVANT ASPECTS, NAMELY, CHEMICAL/AGRONOMICAL FACTORS, ABUSE POTENTIAL AND CONTROL. IN HIS STATEMENT BEFORE CND OUR REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED THAT USG CONSIDERED IT VITAL THAT INCREASING REQUIREMENTS FOR OPIATES BE MET UNDER CONDITIONS OF MAXIMUM CONTROL. HE EXPRESSED USG'S HOPE THAT NO HASTY ACTION WHICH COULD HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED CONTROL OBJECTIVES WOULD BE TAKEN BY ANY COUNTRY.

3. TO DATE, UN LABORATORY'S COLLABORATING SCIENTIESTS, INCLUDING IRANIAN WHO PROVIDED BASIC MATERIAL FOR BRACTEATUM RESEARCH, NAMELY THE SEED, HAVE CARRIED
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06543 161030Z

OUT COORDINATED INVESTIGATION IN MANY CHEMICAL/AGRONOMICAL

AREAS. CONSIDERABLE BODY OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN ACCUMULATED AND RESULTS ARE PROMISING. HOWEVER, RESEARCH IN NUMBER OF TECHNICAL AREAS IS NOT YET COMPLETED.

4. ON ABUSE POTENTIAL, UN LABORATORY CONVENED PANEL OF CHEMISTS EARLY THIS YEAR. AS OMB'S PAPER STATES, PANEL REACHED CONCLUSION THAT PROBLEMS ARE NOT SUCH AS TO PREJUDICE PAPAVER BRACTEATUM'S USE AS COMMERCIAL SOURCE OF CODEINE. HOWEVER, PANEL'S REPORT WAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE UNTIL EVE OF CND SESSION AND MANY DELEGATIONS DID NOT COMMENT ON IT. ONE DELEGATION WHICH DID SO, NAMELY CANADA, EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBT ABOUT PANEL'S CONCLUSION. CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE CITED RESULTS OF STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY SCIENTISTS IN HIS COUNTRY AS WARRANTING CONCERN ON ABUSE POTENTIAL AND URGED CAUTION IN CONSIDERING BRACTEATUM AS COMMERCIAL SOURCE OF CODEINE. IN CIRCUMSTANCES THERE CANNOT BE SAID TO BE INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON ABUSE POTENTIAL AND FURTHER SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION, SUCH AS THAT WHICH NIDA HAS PROMISED BE UNDERTAKEN BY WHO, SEEMS WARRENTED.

5. ON CONTROL, THEBAINE IS COVERED IN 1961 CONVENTION BUT PAPAVER BRACTEATUM ITSELF IN NOT(REPEAT NOT) UNDER TREATY CONTROL. BRINGING THIS POPPY, FROM WHICH SUCH HIGHLY ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES CAN BE MANUFACTURED, UNDER INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS REGIME IS INDISPENSABLE AND MINIMUM PREREQUISITE TO ANY COUNTRY'S AUTHORIZING BRAC-TEATUM'S COMMERICAL PRODUCTION. IDEALLY, TREATY CONTROLS ON POPPY STRAW PRODUCTION SHOULD ALSO BE STRENGTHENED. WE HAVE FORWARDED PRELIMINARY THINK-PIECE PREPARED BY ADOLF LANDE ON THESE QUESTIONS.

6. TO SUM UP, UN COORDINATED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON PAPAVER BRACTEATUM IS NOT YET COMPLETED. ELEMENTS OF CHEMICAL/AGRONOMICAL FACTORS STILL BEING INVESTIGATED. THERE IS NO INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON ABUSE POTENTIAL. MOST IMPORTANTLY PAPAVER BRACTEATUM IS NOT YET UNDER TREATY CONTROL. WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE CONTROL ELEMENT, FOR USG TO JUMP GUN AND AUTHORIZE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION NOW WOULD SET BAD EXAMPLE. SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 06543 161030Z

INCONSISTENT WITH OUR STATEMENTS BEFORE CND, WITH OUR COUNTRY'S MORE THAN FIFTY-YEAR TRADITION AS PACE-SETTER IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND WITH SPIRIT OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS PARTY TO NARCOTICS TREATIES. SUCH ACTION WOULD BE EVEN LESS COMPREHENSIBLE TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND TO UN OFFICIALS/ORGANS IN FACE INCB'S ESTIMATE WORLDWIDE THAT WHILE STOCKS NEED REBUILDING THERE IS NO FORESEEABLE SHORTAGE OF RAW MATERIAL FOR OPIATES AND THERE MAY

IN FACT BE DANGER OF EXCESS. WE URGE THAT USG
DECISION BE DEFERRED. CATTO

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